

# COURT OFFICIALS ALMOST IN RIOT

### Police Called In to Keep the Peace as Justices and Constables Meet

### OFFICERS ARE OUSTED

A police guard was necessary to keep the peace at a meeting of the Magistrates, Justices and Constables' Association of New Jersey and Pennsylvania last night in Camden at the offices of Maurice Praesman, 537 Arch street, when all the officers and two newly appointed members of the Board of Directors were ousted.

Though there were more than 300 members in the association, only twenty-six attended the meeting, which threatened to become a riot at any time. Threats of bodily harm and jail for each other passed back and forth between the representatives of the factions present.

The officers ousted were E. A. Burdick, of Hammoncton, president; S. M. Hunt, former Mayor of Pottsgrove, secretary and treasurer; A. B. Houseworth, former chief of police of Pottsgrove, chairman Board of Directors, Burdick and William Gregory were the directors who were ousted.

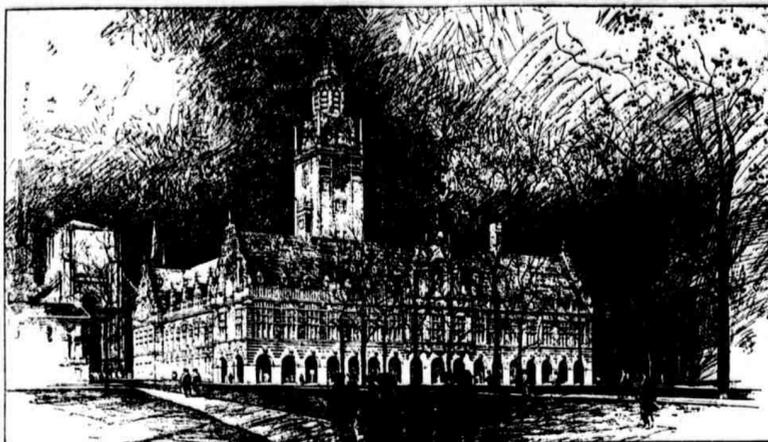
The reasons given by Mr. Christensen for ousting Messrs. Gregory and Burdick was the illegality of their election at a session in Atlantic City. The laws of the association call for an election in Camden before 5 o'clock on the day of the meeting. The two men were elected at 9 o'clock in the evening in Atlantic City.

Mr. Green then charged Messrs. Burdick, Hunt and Houseworth with receiving money to illegally oust the officers which they did not render. For this they were not only ousted from office, but were suspended as members and cited to show cause before December 29, why they should not be expelled.

Further charges against Burdick and Hunt were of using the funds of the association for their own benefit. An official court record was produced by Constable Fred J. DeWitt, of Atlantic City, who asserted that Mr. Burdick had been indicted for grand larceny in the Atlantic County courts in 1921.

The ousted officers, who were on hand with C. P. DeWitt, their attorney, protested the meeting, declaring they had received no notice of it. No attention was paid to their protest. Mr. Christensen acted as chairman, with Justice Capwell as secretary. The newly elected officers made known their intention to appeal to the courts to force Mr. Hunt to turn over the funds of the association to the new treasurer, Burdick, the ousted president, Secretary Hunt and Chairman Houseworth at the close of the meeting declared it illegal.

# WHAT A LITTLE AID AND WORK WOULD DO



The American National Committee for the Restoration of the Library of the University of Louvain has commenced active work in the collecting of the \$1,000,000 necessary to rebuild the structure, which was destroyed shortly after the outbreak of the World War. Samuel M. Vauclain, who is directing the campaign in the Atlantic region, which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, believes that the \$1425 which is the quota for his division will be raised with little difficulty. Above is shown the architect's drawing of the University of Louvain.

## Hall Resents Hint Of Council Tightness

Continued from Page One

what was considered an unwarranted increase of salaries to the keepers and other attaches, which had been given by the Board of Prison Inspectors.

"The board wanted to increase the pay of the keepers to \$1800 instead of the \$1500 they were getting, and we refused to appropriate the money because we knew that the keepers in the county prisons were better paid than the keepers in the Eastern Penitentiary."

**Increases Made by Board**

Taking down a book covering the appropriation for city departments and institutions for 1914, Mr. Hall brought to light a number of substantial increases made by the Board of Inspectors.

"In 1914 Superintendent Cooke, of the county prisoners, was paid \$5000 a year with his fund," said Mr. Hall. "Today his salary is \$6500 and found. The assistant superintendent, who got \$2200 a year in 1914, now gets \$2900, and the board wanted to raise his salary to \$2850, but we stopped it. The clerk to the Board of Inspectors, whose salary in 1914 was \$2100 and who now is getting \$3000, wants \$3500, but we won't get it. Then we can go all the way down the line and compare the salaries of other officials and mechanics employed by the Board of Inspectors. In some instances their salaries have almost doubled and they want more."

"This is why Council cut its appropriation. Council objected to unwarranted increases in salaries, not to any request that would mean more food for the prisoners."

"If conditions exist as reported, in

the prison at Holmesburg, it is a blot on this community.

"The human touch should enter into all phases of life. If a person is unfortunate enough to violate the law and is sent to prison, that person should be helped. It is the duty of every public official, and it is the duty of every citizen, to extend a hand to uplift these unfortunates. It is not humane to cast a person into a chamber of four walls of stone and deny him the right to see even the sun."

"Confining prisoners in solitary idleness makes them despise mankind. It should be the function of every one to help those unfortunate enough to be sent to prison. To deny a convict the right to speak to his fellow-being is an act of barbarism."

Charles J. Pommer, who represents Council from the first district, and who was connected with the District Attorney's office fourteen years, was shocked by the disclosure of conditions existing in the County Prison.

"If any one believes that solitary confinement and foodless hours for talking or smoking are good methods of punishment in a penal institution, I fail to see it," said Mr. Pommer. "I think that a helping hand should be extended to those who fall. Locking a man in a cell and subjecting him to treatment that was once popular in Siberia tends to create viciousness."

"Smoking and chewing is a habit. Taking away this habit from a person who must go to prison for violating the law is another act that savors of the barbaric. Nothing can be gained by subjecting these unfortunates to such restrictions."

"If they show they want to start life again in the right path, give them a chance. Picture the bright side of life to the convicts and assure them that there is a chance of redemption. I heartily favor a change in the rules."

Alexis Limeburner, another member of Council, was quite outspoken in his denunciation of rules that deny to a

convict the right to talk to others and also of the rule that places a man in a stone cell.

"It's all wrong," said Mr. Limeburner. "What good is to be accomplished by placing a convict in a cell to stay there in solitary idleness? Give him sunshine and give him something to occupy his mind. If work cannot be found for any substantial wage-earning, yet their production might yield fifty per cent of the cost of their keep. I would suggest to segregate all incorrigible prison inmates and sentence them to live for life on farms

**All Prisoners Should Work**

"A man should work and produce even if deprived of his personal liberty, and certainly all prisoners ought to work. The majority of them are not mentally fit for any substantial wage-earning, yet their production might yield fifty per cent of the cost of their keep. I would suggest to segregate all incorrigible prison inmates and sentence them to live for life on farms

**Bad Tendencies Intensified**

"If through inheritance or through bad environment the man has developed into an individual with bad tendencies, the latter will be intensified, and thus he is compelled to develop more vicious feeling and desires than heretofore. Besides, if there is an element of nervous or mental inheritance or disorder, the solitary confinement for these reasons will lead to intensification of those morbid elements and such an individual

**Effect of Confinement on the Mind**

Solitary confinement, which is the rule at Holmesburg, almost certainly will affect the mind of the prisoner, or will intensify his vicious and criminal tendencies, alienists and brain specialists say.

"Refraining from extensive details of the probable effects on a prisoner given solitary confinement as the most extreme degree of punishment, Dr. Charles K. Mills, of 1908 Chestnut street, whose expert opinion has been required in many of the most important criminal trials, was most emphatic in denouncing its use.

"On general principle I have always been opposed to solitary confinement because it is bound to work evil in the vast majority of cases if continued for any length of time," Dr. Mills said.

"Certainly it is contrary to the idea of what prison confinement is meant to be. A prison sentence is not an act of revenge on the part of the Commonwealth or municipality, but imposed as a corrective measure to compel the convicted individual to analyze his infringement of the law with a view of mending his ways."

Solitary confinement was originated by the Friends in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, according to Dr. Charles W. Burr, of 1918 Spruce street, with the opening of the first Cherry Hill Prison, which was visited not long after by Charles Dickens.

"The object in introducing this extreme form of punishment," Dr. Burr explained, "was really humanitarian, in that it was intended to separate the incidental offender from the vicious and incorrigible type of criminal, and make him meditate upon his wrongdoings, in the hope that he would reform. However, it did not work out as intended, and, of course, the use of it today is equally wrong."

"The consequence of the cutting off of all these elements through solitary confinement is that he must find issue for these elements within himself. And he is bound gradually to develop a self-analysis and to abandon himself to this self-analysis. All the former impressions, sensations, emotions and affections force themselves for an outward expression."

"The nature of the human being is an instinct to spend his life associating with other humans. Suddenly he is cut off from all his habits and relations with his fellow men, and there is a cessation of expressing of feelings and of all impressions which are the foundations of life."

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may develop a mental disorder from which he may never recover.

"It is common experience to observe that depressing influences of whatever origin they may be are powerful exciting factors for mental derangement."

"On the other hand, if punishment should be inflicted, the removal of such an individual from society to a prison is a sufficiently painful punishment for any criminal, because nature arranges a social life for him which is now totally cut off."

"Discussing further the subject of penal institutions, we should bear in mind that when the criminal is put at liberty the community should make a gain rather than a loss. A jail should discharge prisoners when the term is over with a corrected, healthy, useful life and with new points of view, which would be a benefit to the prisoner as well as to the community. The latter can be accomplished only in one way: by combining the incarceration with an effort to build up the delinquent individual in a physical, moral and mental way."

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## 6 INDICTED IN LIQUOR CASE

Former Police Chief of Midland and Two Aides Among Those Accused

Beaver, Pa., Dec. 8. — Six residents of Ambridge have been named in Grand Jury true bills on charges of breaking, entering, larceny and receiving stolen goods in connection with the robbery of the Old Economy Distillery September 7. Thirty barrels of whisky, valued at \$30,000, were stolen.

True bills were returned against E. E. Etter, former chief of police of Midland; T. R. King, former police sergeant, and Hodi Trelch, former patrolman, on charges of extortion.

## Fire Scare at Point Breeze

There was considerable excitement late yesterday afternoon at the Point Breeze Oil Works, when an empty still caught fire when being cleaned by workmen. An alarm was turned in, but the damage was slight.

## At the Allegheny Avenue Station

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